



YOUR ENERGY CONNECTION

When to Turn Off Personal Computers

If you're wondering when you should turn off your personal computer for energy savings, here are some general guidelines to help you make that decision.

Personal computers use about the same amount of energy to startup as they use when they are on for about two seconds. For energy savings, consider turning off

- the monitor if you aren't going to use your PC for more than 20 minutes
- both the CPU and monitor if you're not going to use your PC for more than 2 hours.

Make sure your computer is on a power strip/surge protector. When the PC is not in use for extended periods, turn off the PC with the switch on the power strip. Even when you turn some PCs off with the switch on the PC itself, it may consume a small amount of power. If you don't use a power strip, unplug the CPU and monitor.

Most PCs reach the end of their "useful" life due to advances in technology long before the effects of being switched on and off has a negative impact on their service life. The less time a PC is on, the longer it will "last." PCs also produce heat, so turning them off reduces building cooling loads.

For cost effectiveness, you also need to consider how much your time is worth. If it takes a long time to shut down the computer and then restart it later, the value of your time will probably be much greater than the value of the amount of electricity you will save by turning off the computer.

Power-Down or Sleep Mode Features

Many PCs available today come with a power-down or *sleep mode* feature for the CPU and monitor. ENERGY STAR computers power down to a sleep mode that consume 15 Watts or less power, which is around 70% less electricity than a computer without power management features. ENERGY STAR monitors have the capability to power down into two successive "sleep" modes. In the first, the monitor energy consumption is less than or equal to 15 Watts, and in the second, power consumption reduces to 8 Watts, which is less than 10% of its operating power consumption.

Make sure you have the power-down feature set up on your PC through your operating system software. This has to be done by you, otherwise the PC will not power down.

Note: Screen savers are not energy savers. Using a screen saver may in fact use more energy than not using one, and the power-down feature may not work if you have a screen saver activated. In fact, modern color monitors do not need screen savers at all.

- U S Department of Energy

BEAT THE PEAK

“Peak” or “Peak Demand” is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of customers are using appliances at the same time. By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control. Rocky Mount averages approximately less than 10 days per month load managing. There are several options available:

Electric Water Heater Control-

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods. Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available. Customers receive **\$2.00** credit each month.

Electric Heat Strip Control-

Heat strips are controlled during the winter load management periods, while compressors continue to provide heat. Customers receive **\$15.00** credit each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

Central Air Conditioning Total Control-

Customers receive **\$20.00** credit each month for July, August, and September. The credit is calculated based on yearly consumption. The compressor is turned off for the entire load management period. Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but your compressor will not generate any new cool air.

There are no installation or maintenance charges associated with this program.

**Call 972-1283 for more information .
Start your savings now!**



March 2006

Expanded Utility Dispatch Hours

Utility Dispatch hours are being expanded!

Any calls made between 6 am and 11 pm Monday through Friday will now be answered by our Utility Dispatchers. Calls after those hours will continue to be handled by the Police dispatch office. As always the number to call anytime to report utility emergencies and problems is 972-1278.

Customers are encouraged to call 972-1278 to report power outages, gas leaks, water and sewer emergencies, utility pole down, electrical line down or sagging, and any other electrical emergency.

Arbor Day
The City of Rocky
Mount will celebrate on
March 31, 2006 10 am
The Imperial Centre



DON'T BE IN THE DARK...

The City of Rocky Mount provides an area light program that provides lighting services to your home. This can give you automatic dusk to dawn lighting every day for your safety and well being. For as little as \$14.83 which includes the light and a wooden pole you could reap the benefits of this service. An underground charge of \$4.70 may also be incurred. For additional information, please call 972-1281.